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UN-HABITAT Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Review of the Governance Structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Report of the Executive Director

1. The Executive Director submitted a report on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.1) to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session in which he reported on progress made in the implementation of resolution 23/13.

2. Under the auspices of the President of the Governing Council and facilitated by the Chair of the Open-ended Consultative Group in consultation with the secretariat, members of the Council were subsequently engaged in informal discussions, through a contact group, on options for the strengthening of UN-Habitat and the reform of the governance structure. However, because of opposing views held by members of the Governing Council on the matter, no consensus was reached and, as a result, the governance structure has remained unchanged. Some donors signalled that they would link their level of engagement with UN-Habitat with the governance issue, and cuts in financing were later linked by some donors to the issue.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/239, took note of the governance review process and encouraged the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue its consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus on how to proceed with the governance review.

4. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the Executive Director, resumed informal discussions on governance reform in 2014. Two co-facilitators, the Permanent Representative of the United States of America and the Permanent Representative of Nigeria, were appointed by the Committee at its 54th meeting in December 2014 to lead a process of informal consultations with a view to preparing for discussions on the issue at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council. The co-facilitators have proceeded with the process as agreed, and a series of consultations have been held, both within the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and on an informal basis.

5. The Executive Director expects the Governing Council to agree on a way forward on this critical issue.

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